

**Sierra Nevada Conservancy Grant Program
Safe Drinking Water, Water Quality and Supply, Flood Control,
River and Coastal Protection Act of 2006 (Proposition 84)**

Subregion: REGIONWIDE **County:** ALL

Applicant: CALIFORNIA INSTITUTE FOR BIODIVERSITY

Project Title: SIERRA NEVADA CLASSROOM PROJECT (SNCP)

Reference Number: SNC 070303

PROJECT SCOPE

The California Institute for Biodiversity, (based in the Bay Area) proposes to provide 30 high school and middle school teachers with a Summer 2008 hands-on, six-day institute at an outdoor facility in the foothills south of Yosemite NP. The training will present curriculum developed by the Institute that features regional biodiversity and topical issues related to the effects of global climate change. The Institute plans to present this training as a pilot program. They would like to secure funding and partners to continue future trainings into the year 2010, targeting potentially 1,860 teachers and 183,500 students in California and the Sierra Nevada. The lead instructor for the pilot project is Jack Laws, naturalist and environmental educator. His Laws Field Guide will serve as the basis for the curriculum.

Steps critical to a successful project include:

- Development of syllabus for the training, including a CD ROM;
- Enrollment of 30 teachers;
- Completion of a Rapid Biological Assessment Guide;
- Obtainment of educational materials and equipment (books and media);
- Prepare for and present pilot institute;
- Evaluation and reporting.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Final six day syllabus	April 15, 2008
Montane Frog CD ROM: Sierran Frog Experiment	May 1, 2008
Rapid Biological Assessment Guide:	May 15, 2008
Equipment, Media and Books Requisition	June 12, 2008
Instructional Field Guide: ("Using the Laws Field Guide")	June 13, 2008
Documentation and Evaluations: Pre-Institute training for instructors and staff	July 1-2, 2008
Invoicing: Supplies purchasing	July 3, 2008
Pilot Institute	July 11-20, 2008
Distribution list, Evaluation: 50 copies of Frog disc to teachers in Sierra Nevada region; Evaluation of pilot program	October 2008
Final Report/Final Payment Request (includes all deliverables)	December 31, 2008

PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Personnel: Project Coordinator	\$66,750
Travel: Project Related	\$3,200
Housing	\$9,500
Sampling Equipment	\$11,055
Supplies: Printing, copies, media, books, etc.	\$12,135
GRAND TOTAL	\$102,640

Letters of Support:

- Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
- California Academy of Sciences
- Fresno Unified School District
- Department of Parks and Recreation

Recommendation: Recommend for requested amount.

070303 per email request, Upd Tel 2C 1/4/07

SUMMARY

Studies show that the most effective way to capture students' attention and effectively teach science is through real-world, inquiry-based learning in which students formulate questions and work to find the answers. Critical to creating the next generation of environmental stewards is teaching students about the local environment and giving them the opportunity to participate in hands-on, outdoor environmental learning opportunities. However, before students can have this opportunity, *teachers* must have the knowledge, confidence, and experience to lead their students in inquiry-based science. We will provide 30 high school and middle school teachers with hands-on professional development opportunities as well as a correlated, standards-based curriculum and a Field Guide. The intensive six-day teacher institute will take place over the course of two weeks in July 2008. With this knowledge base and skills, teachers will develop meaningful classroom and outdoor experiences that they will implement with approximately 1,500 students, pending funding, at outdoor sites throughout the Sierra Nevada during the following school year. This pilot program will feature regional biodiversity and topical issues related to the effects of global climate change on the local Sierra Nevada ecosystems.

Category	SNC portion	Other source	Total
Personnel			
Project Coordinator	5,815	11,688	17,503
Project Assistants	10,000	0	10,000
Instructor	25,000	5,853	30,853
Trainers	21,000	0	21,000
Total Salaries	\$61,815	\$17,541	79,356
Fringe Benefits			
Project Coordinator	1,815	3,647	5,462
Project Assistants	3,120	0	3,120
Instructor	0	0	0
Trainers	0	0	0
Total Fringe Benefits	\$4,935	\$3,647	8,582
Travel			
Project-related	3,200	0	3,200
Housing, Food	11,500	0	11,500
Total Travel	\$14,700	\$0	14,700
Equipment			
Sampling equipment	2,055	0	2,055
Planting material, soil, flats	4,445	0	4,445
Technical equipment	4,200	0	4,200
Total Equipment	\$10,700	\$0	10,700
Supplies			
Printing & copying	1,500	0	1,500
Curricula for teachers:media	4,800	0	4,800
Curricula for teachers:books	2,500	0	2,500
Disposable material	3,690	0	3,690
Total Supplies	\$12,490	\$0	12,490
Other			
Transportation grants	0	15,000	15,000
Total Others	\$0	\$15,000	15,000
Total Direct Cost	\$104,640	\$36,188	\$140,828